

FCC REPORTS NETWORK NEWS 6:30 AUGUST 1-15 / PART 1

08/01/2012

NEW HEALTHCARE BENEFITS FOR WOMEN

LUIS MEGID / SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

PKG 1:58

Starting Wednesday, all new health insurance plans must provide eight preventive health benefits to women for free. The department of Health and Human Services estimates 47 million women are in health plans that have to offer them new benefits. It's a requirement of the Health Care Reform Law passed in 2010. The Supreme Court upheld most of the law in June. The Secretary of Health and Human Services celebrated the milestone on Tuesday.

USPS BANKRUPTCY

JUAN CARLOS GONZALEZ / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

PKG 2:07

The Postal Service is facing a financial crisis, poised to default today on an important debt to the government. The U.S. Postal Service is losing money and the situation is growing more serious by the day. That's something Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe acknowledged on Capitol Hill this spring. "We've got to get our finances stabilized. The quicker we act and get ourselves back on firm financial footing, the better for the industry." If Congress doesn't act by today, August 1, the service will default on a \$5.5 billion payment to the federal government to cover retiree health benefits.

CA WORKERS PAYCUT

VO :18

Today marks the first time state employee paychecks will show the 4.62 percent furlough pay cut that began last month in an effort to balance the budget. This is the first time wages have been reduced for all 214,000 state workers under gubernatorial authority. Unions that did not reach side-letter furlough agreements with Brown will see their checks drop under an imposed furlough. For top-step employees, the furlough reduction will be offset by 3 percent to 5 percent - but not until next year. The raises, which had been previously negotiated, kick in July 1, 2013.

=====

08/02/2012

PRIVATE PRISONS-IMMIGRANTS

LUIS MEGID. SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

PKG 2:00

The U.S. is locking up more illegal immigrants than ever and generating lucrative business for the nation's largest prison companies. An Associated Press review shows the private firms have spent more than \$45 million lobbying lawmakers and contributing to campaigns over the last decade as their share of detention beds has jumped from 10 percent to nearly half. The cost to American taxpayers for locking up the 400,000 immigrants detained is on track to top \$2 billion for this year. The companies are expecting their biggest profits in the next few years because the government plans new facilities. The expansion is expected to continue even as the nation has seen a drop in illegal immigration. Federal officials told the AP privatization isn't necessarily cheaper.

"DREAMERS" REQUIREMENTS

LOURDES MELUZA. WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 2:00

On Thursday, August 2 at 1:00 p.m., Members of Congress will gather for a press conference in the U.S. Capitol to discuss deferred action deportation relief for young immigrants eligible for the DREAM Act. The application process for those eligible to obtain protection from deportation and a work permit will begin August 15. Some Members and community based organizations have events planned locally to assist applicants or educate the community about who does and does not qualify and what will need to be done to apply. On June 15, President Obama and Secretary of Homeland Security Napolitano announced that they would spare certain immigrants from deportation and offer them deferred action, a two-year temporary reprieve, if they meet certain criteria. The criteria include having already lived in the U.S. for five years, being under age 16 when they arrived, being under age 31 currently, having a clean criminal record, and a high school diploma or equivalent, among other criteria.

=====

08/03/2012

GUIDE FOR DREAMERS, DREAMER. Deferred Action Applications Begin August 15, 2012

LOURDES MELUZA. WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 2:00

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano recently testified before Congress about the Deferred Action for DREAMers program that was announced by President Obama on June 15, 2012. In her testimony she provided the following announcements and clarification: 1. August 1, 2012 - DHS is expected to explain the application process 2. August 15, 2012 Applications are expected to begin to be accepted. 3. Fees. \$465 for both the work authorization and biometrics. However, there is a strong likelihood there will be a separate fee for deferred action. 4. Maximum age for eligibility. Applicants younger than 31 on June 15, 2012 will be eligible to apply. DHS had previously indicated that applicants could not be over 30 in order to be eligible, which left many questions as to whether a person could be eligible until his or her 31st birthday, and whether the eligibility consideration was as of the date of application or the June 15, 2012 announcement. This has now been clarified.

=====

08/04/2012

BACK TO SCHOOL TAX FREE WEEK

JORGE VIERA - MIAMI, FLORIDA

PKG: 1:40

There are several different types of tax free weekend events in the U.S. Some apply to general merchandise, while others are limited to Energy Star products or hurricane preparedness. Most general sales tax holidays take place during August, to help parents save money on their kids' back-to-school needs. Energy Star and emergency planning tax free events tend to take place at different times throughout the year. As a single parent, you'll want to plan ahead and take advantage of the tax free savings whenever possible. Just make sure that you're not buying things you don't really need, just because of the savings. Instead, make an actual list of what you need to buy, and shop around to make sure that shopping during your state's tax free weekend is really going to result in the best deal for your purchases.

WEST NILE VIRUS SPREADING

VO: 25

Health officials say West Nile Virus is on the rise around the country. That's the disease spread through infected mosquitoes. Right now, at least 80 percent of the infections are in Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas. Houston reported its first West Nile death on Friday. The C-D-C says it isn't clear why we're seeing more activity than in the last few years. This is the biggest spike since 2004, with at least 241 cases reported nationwide, including four deaths.

TOO FAT TO FIGHT - MILITARY REJECTS OBESE

VO: 31

America's battle against obesity has reached the front lines. That's according to a new report that says 25-percent of young Americans- potential recruits for the military-- are simply too fat to fight. this is not how mercedes lipscomb looked a decade ago -- when she tried to enlist in the national guard and was rejected -- told she was too fat.

=====

08/05/2012

NOTHING TO REPORT

=====

08/06/2012

DC ANTIBULLYING EVENT

VO :20

Parents are urged to teach their kids to speak up if they witness school bullying, an issue that top Obama administration officials are vowing to make a national priority in a new ad campaign unveiled Monday. The campaign is a joint effort by the Ad Council, a nonprofit that distributes public service announcements, and the Free to Be Foundation, a group that includes entertainers Marlo Thomas, Alan Alda and Mel Brooks. Television, print and web ads will start running in October.

DC OBAMA SIGNS ACT & VETERANS

VO :24

President Barack Obama signed a measure Monday aimed at helping veterans before heading to Connecticut to campaign for his re-election. The president signed a law called the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012. The bipartisan legislative package helps provide for the needs of veterans and their families with improved health care, housing, education and memorial services.

=====

08/07/2012

1.76 WILL BENEFIT FROM DEFERRAL

LOURDES MELUZA / WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 2:00

As many as 1.76 million unauthorized immigrants under the age of 31 who were brought to the United States as children could gain a two-year grant of relief from deportation, according to updated Migration Policy Institute (MPI) estimates that take into account the more detailed eligibility guidelines outlined by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on August 3, 2012.

=====

08/08/2012

POVERTY & WEALFARE

LOURDES MELUZA. WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 2:00

A new study from the Center for Immigration Studies uses Census Bureau data from 2010 and 2011 to provide a detailed picture of the nation's immigrant population (legal and illegal) by country of birth, state, and legal status. A key finding is that immigration has dramatically increased the size of the nation's low-income population. In general, immigrants make significant progress the longer they live in the country. But even with this progress, immigrants who have been in the country for 20 years are still much more likely to be poor, lack health insurance, and access the welfare system than native-born Americans. The large share of immigrants with little education partly explains this phenomenon.

DEL RÍO: SOC SECURITY

LOURDES DEL RIO. MIAMI, FLORIDA

PKG 2:13

Previous generations got a much better bargain, mainly because payroll taxes were very low when Social Security was enacted in the 1930s and remained so for decades. If you retired in 1960, you could expect to get back seven times more in benefits than you paid in Social Security taxes, and more if you were a low-income worker, as long you made it to age 78 for men and 81 for women. As recently as 1985, workers at every income level could retire and expect to get more in benefits than they paid in Social Security taxes, though they didn't do quite as well as their parents and grandparents. Not anymore. A married couple retiring last year, after both spouses earned average lifetime wages, paid about \$598,000 in Social Security taxes during their careers. They can expect to collect about \$556,000 in benefits if the man lives to 82 and the woman lives to 85, according to a 2011 study by the Urban Institute, a Washington think tank.

=====

08/09/2012

GAS PRICES ON THE RISE

VO :24

Gas prices have shot up dramatically over the last month. It almost seems that if you've blinked, you've missed this. But in the last 30 days, gas prices have shot up about 30 cents per gallon. The national average now stands at \$3.66. All this has to do, in large part, to many problems that we're seeing at refineries across the country from the midwest down to oklahoma, and into california, where we've seen a dramatic fire that shut down a chevron refinery in richmond, california, in the san francisco bay area. because of that, analysts say along the west coast, they expect gas prices to shoot up over \$4 a gallon.

POSTAL PROBLEMS

VO :23

The nearly bankrupt U.S. Postal Service on Thursday reported a quarterly loss of \$5.2 billion and warned it will miss another payment due to the Treasury, just one week after its first-ever default on a payment for future retiree health benefits. From April to June, losses were \$2.1 billion more than during the same period last year. The mail agency said it is being hurt significantly by mounting costs for future retiree health benefits. Those expenses made up \$3.1 billion of the post office's quarterly loss. Declining first-class mail volume also contributed to losses.

SB 1070

VO :24

Ninth court of appeals supported the the decision made by the Supreme Court on June 25 in regards to the SB 1070 law in Arizona. However, it allowed the police to check the immigration status of persons suspected of not being legally in the USA. The ninth court circuit indicated that it should be reviewed by the district court in Arizona.